

Remarks

The examiner rejected claims 3-5, 7, 19, 25, 27 and 29 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over EP 0955347 to Colas et al in view of US 6,475,329 to Johnson et al. The Examiner argues that Colas teaches a method of adhering a silicone gel to a substrate however, Colas does not specifically teach treating silicone gel on a sheet with a specific primer. The Examiner further argues that it would have been obvious for one having ordinary skill in the art to do so, as Johnson et al. teach applying a primer comprising a titanate and zirconate materials to silicone gels as it would be used for improving the adhesion of silicone gets to polymeric adherends.

Applicant claims forming a layer of get on the substrate and treating the silicone gel with the primer. Applicants agree that Colas teaches a method of adhering a silicone gel to a substrate however, Colas does not specifically teach treating the gel with a specific primer. Johnson et al teach applying a specific primer to surface and then applying an uncrosslinked silicone composition to the primed polymer surface and thereafter curing the silicone composition to produce the gel (col. 5, lines 17-28). Johnson et al does not teach or suggest applying primer on the uncrosslinked silicone composition. Further, Johnson et al. does not teach or suggest applying a silicone gel to the primed polymer surface or applying a primer on the silicone gel before applying to a polymer surface. In fact, Johnson et al. teaches away from this: “We have found that where silicone composition that is already substantially completely crosslinked is applied to the polymer surface, there is no improvement in adhesion.” (col. 5, lines 28-31) Based on this applicants believe that one skilled would not have been motivated to use the teaching of Johnson for improving the adhesion of silicone gels to polymeric substrates.

The examiner rejected claims 20-24, 26, 28 and 30 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over EP 0955347 to Colas et al in view of US 6,475,329 to Johnson et al. The Examiner argues that Colas teaches a method of adhering a silicone gel to a substrate however, Colas does not specifically teach treating a sheet with a primer. The Examiner further argues that it would have been obvious for one having ordinary skill in the art to do

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so, as Johnson et al. teach applying a primer comprising titanate and zirconate materials to silicone gels, as it would be used for improving the adhesion of silicone gels to polymeric adherends.

Applicant treating a substrate with a primer and thereafter joining a silicone gel with the primed substrate. Applicants agree that Colas teaches a method of adhering a silicone gel to a substrate however, Colas does not specifically teach treating the substrate with a specific primer. Johnson et al. teach applying a specific primer to surface and then applying an uncrosslinked silicone composition to the primed polymer surface and thereafter curing the silicone composition to produce the gel (col. 5, lines 17-28). Johnson et al. does not teach or suggest applying a silicone gel to the primed polymer surface or applying a primer on the silicone gel before applying to a polymer surface. In fact, Johnson et al. teaches away from this: “We have found that where silicone composition that is already substantially completely crosslinked is applied to the polymer surface, there is no improvement in adhesion.” (col. 5, lines 28-31) Based on this applicants believe that one skilled would not have been motivated to use the teaching of Johnson for improving the adhesion of silicone gels to polymeric substrates.

This reply is being submitted with a request for a one month extension of time for response to the outstanding office action. You are authorized to charge deposit account 04-1520 for any fees necessary to maintain the pendency of this application. You are authorized to make any additional copies of this sheet needed to accomplish the purposes provided for herein and to charge any fee for such copies to deposit account 04-1520.

Respectfully Submitted,
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